

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

STR-04 CEA-01 DEAE-00 IO-10 JUSE-00 SNM-02 OES-03

CU-02 /132 W

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R 230130Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 486

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MANDALAY BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI BY POUCH

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 3046

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA #40

1. NE WIN TO PRC (CONF)

THERE IS NOW RATHER SOLID EVIDENCE THAT PRESIDENT NE WIN'S LONG
STANDING TRIP TO THE PRC IS SCHEDULED FOR MID-NOVEMBER (RANGOON
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3003) AND WILL LAST ABOUT 4-5 DAYS. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT NE WIN

IS NOT FOLLOWING EXACTLY IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF FOREIGN MINISTER HLA
PHONE'S VISIT AND WILL PROBABLY NOT TRAVEL TO PYONGYANG, A POS-
SIBILITY THAT HAD VISIBLY CONCERNED THE ROK EMBASSY HERE.

2. HLUTTAW MEETING (LOU)

IN OPENING ADDRESS TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 15, PRIME MINISTER
U SEIN WIN NOTED THAT INCREASED DOMESTIC DISTRIBUTION OF RICE
MIGHT AFFECT EXPORT TARGETS; THAT NO CRUDE OIL WAS CURRENTLY BEING
IMPORTED DUE TO GOOD PROSPECTS FOR PETROLEUM SELF-SUFFICIENCY;
AND THAT BANGLADESH AND BURMESE DELEGATIONS HAD MET THREE TIMES
REGARDING DEMARCATION OF A SEA BOUNDARY (ALSO AN OIL RELATED
ISSUE). SO FAR HLUTTAW, AMONG OTHER THINGS, HAS APPROVED AP-
POINTMENT OF TWO NEW MEMBERS OF COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S JUSTICES,
RAISING TOTAL FROM FIVE TO SEVEN; CONFIRMED APPOINTMENT OF FORM-
ER AMBASSADOR TO US, U LWIN, AS MINISTER OF INFORMATION; CON-
SIDERING RAISING PRESIDENT NE WIN'S SALARY TO 5,000 KYAT A MONTH;
AND APPROVED A SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET WHICH WILL RAISE DEFICIT FOR
YEAR 123.7 MILLION KYAT (\$20 MILLION) TO A TOTAL OF 1,172 MILLION
KYAT (RANGOON 3021). THERE IS NO SIGN THAT HLUTTAW IS ADDRESSING
BASIC ISSUES UNDERLYING BURMA'S MORE SERIOUS PROBLEMS, PARTICULAR-
LY STATE OF ECONOMY.

3. CONCERN ABOUT MUSLIM MINORITY (LOU)

EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED GUB CONCERN ABOUT INTEREST OF OUTSIDERS IN
BURMA'S MUSLIM MINORITY (WEEKA 39, ITEM 4) APPEARED AS HOME AND
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS MINISTER U KO KO AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
MET WITH LEADERS OF SIX MUSLIM ORGANIZATIONS. PRESS PROMINENTLY
FEATURED RESULTANT MUSLIM DECLARATIONS OF LOYALTY TO BURMA AS WELL
AS INDIGNATION AT ALLEGATIONS IN SOME FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS THAT
BURMESE MUSLIMS ARE OPPRESSED. COVERAGE OF THESE DECLARATIONS IN
THE VERNACULAR PRESS WAS CONSIDERABLY LESS PROMINENT, PERHAPS
SIGNIFYING THAT PRIMARY TARGET OF THESE ARTICLES WAS LOCAL DIPLO-
MATIC COMMUNITY. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO AN INDIAN EMBASSY SOURCE,
GUB WAS CRITICIZED IN SAUDI ARABIA FOR PROHIBITING TRAVEL BY
BURMESE MUSLIMS TO MECCA AND CRITICISM SPREAD TO PAKISTANI PRESS.

4. BELGIUM OPENS MISSION IN RANGOON (UNCLAS)

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THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS SENT A CAREER DIPLOMAT, MR. T.W. TSAN
(NATURALIZED BELGIAN OF CHINESE BIRTH), TO OPEN A MISSION IN RAN-
GOON AND SERVE AS CHARGE'. HE WILL REPORT TO BELGIUM'S ACCREDITED
AMBASSADOR RESIDENT IN DACCA. CHARGE' IS AT SOMETHING OF A LOSS TO
EXPLAIN DECISION TO OPEN POST HERE BUT BELIEVES IT IS PART OF HIS
GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO ESTABLISH BROADER CONTACTS IN THIRD WORLD.
HIS MAIN INTEREST WILL BE IN PROMOTING SALE OF BELGIAN GOODS TO
BURMA.

5. U.S. BLAMED FOR DROP IN BURMA'S RICE EXPORT (UNCLAS)

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER U LWIN TOLD CURRENT SESSION OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY THAT BURMA'S RICE MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES ARE "BECOMING NARROW" DUE TO DUMPING OF RICE FOR "POLITICAL REASONS" TO BURMA'S RICE CUSTOMERS. AS RESULT, HE SAID, RICE EXPORT HAS BEEN REDUCED IN PRICE AND VOLUME. FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS FROM RICE EXPORT WILL AMOUNT TO ONLY K430 MILLION THIS YEAR. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE US NOT CITED, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S COMPLAINT IS DIRECTED AT LEAST IN PART TO US RICE SALES UNDER PL 480. THIS CRITICISM NOT UNPRECEDENTED AS GUB HAS COMPLAINED OF MARKET DISRUPTIONS BY PL 480 RICE SALES IN PAST YEARS WHEN INTERNATIONAL RICE PRICE HAS FALLEN. (APPARENTLY GUB SEES NO INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN US RICE SALES AND ITS OWN REQUESTS FOR OTHER COMMODITIES UNDER PL 480 PROGRAM). HOWEVER, GUB MAY ALSO HAVE IN MIND POSSIBLE THAI RICE DEAL WITH PRC WHICH WOULD CUT INTO THEIR TRIANGULAR ARRANGEMENT WITH SRI LANKA.

6. NARCOTICS: VISIT OF AVIATION ADVISOR HALL (LOU)

AFTER SOME INITIAL RELUCTANCE ABOUT THE PROPOSED VISIT OF S/NM AVIATION ADVISOR RUDY HALL, GUB APPROVED HALL'S TRIP AND HE MET WITH KEY MILITARY OFFICERS CONCERNED WITH THE ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM OCTOBER 18 (RANGOON 3001). TWO HOUR TECHNICAL MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT LUNCHEON HOSTED BY BURMESE WERE FRANK, CORDIAL AND VERY PRODUCTIVE; BURMESE SIDE HAD PREPARED CAREFULLY TO USE HALL'S EXPERTISE AND MANY TECHNICAL ISSUES WERE SETTLED. AS A RESULT OF THE MEETING, MILITARY EVIDENTLY SPURRED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY INTO SENDING A REPLY TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE REQUESTING EXTENSION OF THE USG-GUB NARCOTICS AGREEMENT TO COVER THE F-27 PACKAGE (RANGOON 3013).

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7. ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES (UNCLAS)

SUPPLEMENTING BURMA ARMY'S MAJOR OPERATION AGAINST MAJOR TRAF-
FICKERS (RANGOON 2958), POLICE AND COURTS HAVE ALSO BEEN ACTIVE
OF LATE. KENG TUNG POLICE SEIZED A QUANTITY OF NUMBER FOUR HEROIN
VALUED AT K300,000 (\$15,000 AT OPEN MARKET EXCHANGE RATE) AND
ARRESTED ONE SUSPECT. A SEPARATE ACTION IN KENG TUNG NETTED MORE
THAN ONE KILO OF HEROIN, VALUED AT K40,000 (\$2,000); TWO WERE
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ARRESTED. RECENT COURT CASES FOR POSSESSION OF HARMFUL DRUGS
HAVE RESULTED IN SEVERE PUNISHMENTS. POSSESSION OF SMALL AMOUNTS
OF HEROIN, VALUED ONLY AT SEVERAL HUNDRED KYAT, BROUGHT TWO FIVE-
YEAR SENTENCES AND ONE TEN-YEAR SENTENCE IN ONE INSTANCE; POS-
SESSION OF APPROXIMATELY ONE OUNCE OF MARIJUANA BROUGHT A FIVE-
YEAR SENTENCE IN ANOTHER CASE. IN TWO SEPARATE ACTIONS, POLICE
DESTROYED OVER 2400 MARIJUANA PLANTS AND ARRESTED THE CULTIVATORS.
AREA FARMERS, HEARING OF THE INCIDENT, VOLUNTARILY DESTROYED AN
ESTIMATED 20,000 MARIJUANA PLANTS TO AVOID PROSECUTION.

8. WRITERS/JOURNALISTS DECLARE DESIRE FOR SPEEDY FORMATION OF
FEDERATION (UNCLAS)

NEWSMEN AND WRITERS HAVE RECENTLY CARRIED ON A SERIES OF MEETINGS
AND RALLIES IN RANGOON AND MANDALAY IN ORDER TO EXPRESS THEIR
"ARDENT DESIRE" FOR FORMATION OF THE FEDERATION OF WRITERS AND
JOURNALISTS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE BSPP AND ACTING MINISTER

FOR INFORMATION, U KO KO STATED AT THE PYITHU HLUTTAW THAT ARRANGEMENTS WERE BEING MADE TO SET UP THE WJF SOON. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT THE WJF, IN THE TALKING STAGES FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS, WILL SOON BECOME REALITY. THE DIFFICULTY UP TO NOW HAS BEEN DISSENT ON THE EXACT POWERS OF THE BSPP IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ORGANIZATION AND THE MAKE-UP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. WITH THE FORMATION OF THE WJF, THE BSPP WILL FURTHER EXTEND ITS CONTROL OVER INTELLECTUAL FORCES IN BURMA.

9. INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL ACTIVITIES (UNCLAS)

A BURMESE SOCCER AND CHINLON TEAM RETURNED FROM PRC AFTER A DIPLOMATIC ONE WIN, ONE LOSS AND TWO TIES WITH CHINESE TEAMS IN PEKING AND SHANGHAI. ON THE SAME DAY OF THE RETURN BY THE FOOTBALLERS, A THIRTEEN-MEMBER CHINESE WEIGHTLIFTING TEAM ARRIVED IN RANGOON TO PARTICIPATE IN A FRIENDLY MATCH WITH BURMESE WEIGHTLIFTERS. THE SOVIET EMBASSY INAUGURATED AN EXHIBITION OF SOME 100 WORKS OF HANDICRAFT IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM. FINALLY, A DELEGATION OF THREE JOURNALISTS LEFT FOR FRG ON A TWO-WEEK TOUR TO STUDY INFORMATION MEDIA.

OSBORN

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